



# LAFOURCHE



# PARISH

*“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”*

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



## LaFourche Parish

### **LaFourche Parish Tourist Commission**

4484 Hwy. 1  
P.O. Box 340  
Raceland, LA 70394  
504-537-5800

### **Regional Office of Public Health**

Frederick Duplechin,  
Regional Administrator  
Region III Office  
206 E. Third St.  
Thibodaux, LA 70301  
504-447-0916  
504-447-0920 fax

### **History<sup>1</sup>**

One of the largest parishes in square mile area, Lafourche was among the original 12 counties, organized on April 10, 1805. From the French word meaning fork, it is named for Bayou Lafourche, a fork of the Mississippi River. The Washa, Chawasha, and Chitimacha Indian tribes were the first inhabitants. When the Acadians saw this fertile land, they immediately settled and began farming, fishing, trapping, and cooking, all in which they still excel.

### **Culture and Recreation<sup>3</sup>**

Each parish in Louisiana has its own charm and uniqueness. Lafourche is not exception. It is considered to have the longest line village in the world — 65 miles of farms and homes fronting Bayou Lafourche, from Thibodaux to Leeville. The parish offers Cajun hospitality, plantation homes, antique shops, swamp tours, charter fishing, festivals, and Mardi Gras celebrations. In Thibodaux, visit the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center or Laurel Valley Village, an operating 19th-century sugar plantation. See St. John's Episcopal Church, the oldest Episcopal church west of the Mississippi. St. Joseph Catholic Cathedral, with its ornate artwork, is listed on the national Register of Historic Places. Nicholls State University features Allen J. Ellender Memorial Library with displays of the region including the Evangeline Baseball League Collection, Center for Traditional Louisiana Boat Building, and the Allen J. Ellender Archives. Travel south along LA 1 or LA 308, enjoying the bayou drive through Cajun villages on your way to the Gulf of Mexico. Port Fourchon's public beach provides fishing, crabbing and beach combing. Sunsets are breathtaking in this birdwatcher's paradise.



**Parish Seat<sup>1</sup>** ..... Thibodaux<sup>1</sup>

### **Major Cities (over 5,000 population)<sup>2</sup>**

Thibodaux	
1990	14,035
1997 (estimate)	15,730
LaRose CDP*	
1990	5,772
1997 (estimate)	N/A
Raceland CDP*	
1990	5,564
1997 (estimate)	N/A

**Cut Off CDP\***

1990 .....	5,325
1997 (estimate) .....	N/A

\*Census Designated Place

**Parish Population<sup>2</sup>**

1990 .....	85,860
1997 (estimate) .....	88,060

**Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)<sup>6</sup>**

White .....	83%
African American .....	14%
Other .....	3%
Male .....	49%
Female .....	51%
Population age 0-4 .....	8%
Population age 65 & Over .....	10%

**Geography and Statistics<sup>2</sup>**

Average elevation .....	15 ft.
Land area in square miles .....	1,084.8
Water area in square miles <sup>4</sup> .....	387.5

**Climate<sup>2</sup>****Average temperatures**

Annual .....	69°
January .....	57°
July .....	82°
Annual average rainfall .....	90.8 in.

**Labor Force (1995)<sup>1</sup>**

Civilian .....	37,800
Employed .....	35,900
Unemployed .....	1,900
Unemployment .....	5.1 %

**Agriculture<sup>1</sup>**

Sugarcane, corn, potatoes, rice, cotton, fruit crops, oil and related industries, sugar refining and related industries, timber, seafood canning and boat building.

**Educational Attainment (1990)<sup>7</sup>**

Less than 5th grade	8.3%
High school graduate or higher	56.2%
Some college or higher	22.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher	26.7%

**Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees<sup>2</sup>****Private Employers**

Bollinger Machine Shop/Shipyard, Inc. (Shipbuilding)	750
Thibodaux Regional Medical (Medical)	728
North American Shipbuilding, Inc. (Shipbuilding)	625

**Public Employers**

LaFourche Parish School Board (Education)	1,811
Nicholls State University (Education)	728

**Poverty and Income**

Persons in poverty (1995) <sup>7</sup>	18.4%
Children under age 18 in poverty <sup>7</sup>	27.3%
Per capita income (1996) <sup>8</sup>	\$17,512



## Colleges/Universities<sup>2</sup>

(within one hour commute)

Nicholls State University, Thibodaux

## Public Libraries<sup>5</sup> ..... 7

### References

- <sup>1</sup> Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- <sup>2</sup> Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lled.state.la.us>
- <sup>3</sup> Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- <sup>4</sup> Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- <sup>5</sup> State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- <sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>



### Region 1

Jefferson  
Orleans  
Plaquemines  
St. Bernard

### Region 2

Ascension  
East Baton Rouge  
East Feliciana  
Iberville  
Pointe Coupee  
West Baton Rouge  
West Feliciana

### Region 3

Assumption  
Lafourche  
St. Charles  
St. James  
St. John  
St. Mary  
Terrebonne

### Region 4

Acadia  
Evangeline  
Iberia  
Lafayette  
St. Landry  
St. Martin  
Vermillion

### Region 5

Allen  
Beauregard  
Calcasieu  
Cameron  
Jefferson Davis

### Region 6

Avoyelles  
Catahoula  
Concordia  
Grant  
LaSalle  
Rapides  
Vernon  
Winn

### Region 7

Bienville  
Bossier  
Caddo  
Claiborne  
DeSoto  
Natchitoches  
Red River  
Sabine  
Webster

### Region 8

Caldwell  
East Carroll  
Franklin  
Jackson  
Lincoln  
Madison  
Morehouse  
Ouachita  
Richland  
Tensas  
Union  
West Carroll

### Region 9

Livingston  
St. Helena  
St. Tammany  
Tangipahoa  
Washington